

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 7 29 30 41
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

8 25 31 34 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 7 9
Evening: 7 6 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:46.12

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, a 46-year-old man climbed into an enclosed area at the Taipei (Taiwan) Zoo, apparently to attempt to convert a pride of lions to Christianity by informing them that Jesus is their savior. According to witnesses, the lion king sauntered over and briefly sank his teeth into the man's leg, but then, according to one account, "got bored" and returned to his previous state of lounging, as zoo personnel hustled the intruder away.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1945, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1961, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower warned against the rise of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that the private use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs did not violate federal copyright laws.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The course of history can be changed but not halted."

PAUL ROBESON
AMERICAN ACTOR

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Modrey Floyd/Special to the Daily Press

Surfers paddle out north of the Santa Monica Pier on Saturday during a memorial service for tsunami victims. The surfers carried 12 surfboards, representing 11 affected countries and the victims of the tsunami, into the water as a final farewell to hundreds of thousands of people who died in the disaster.

Tsunami memorial brings waves of people to pier

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER — Santa Monica might be thousands of miles away from the areas of Southern Asia devastated by December's tsunami, but distance meant very little to more than 200 people who gathered here Saturday for a chance to say goodbye to the victims.

"We are affected by what happens on the other side of the water," said Alice Williams, an Air France employee and 25-year resident of Santa Monica who came to the pier to pay her respects.

"Just because the city is not physically close to the destruction

does not mean it was not moved by tragedy," she said. "One day you wake up and realize there is 100,000 less people on this earth."

Mary Setterholm, director of the Surf Academy in Redondo Beach, organized Saturday's interfaith prayer session and a surfer "paddle out" ceremony to honor tsunami victims and to raise money for the 11 countries that were caught in the path of destruction.

She referred to the paddle out as the surfing community's reaction to tragedy. Although designed to give the community an outlet to share its grief, the event also was meant to be a "celebration of sur-

See **MEMORIAL**, page 5

Local woman channels her grief into relief

A Santa Monica business owner from Sri Lanka is focusing on emergency aid efforts overseas

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

While the global community mourns the loss of more than 150,000 people in Southern Asia, the personal grief of one local woman with family ties to tsunami-stricken Sri Lanka has given way to the drive to rebuild, and ordinary life has taken a backseat to helping those left behind.

Nisha Rodrigo, a native of Sri Lanka who moved to California in the 1980s, was so overcome with pain upon hearing about the tsunami in her country that she could not, and still doesn't, watch the news for fear of seeing her country in shambles.

"I know how bad it is from talking to friends, and I won't be able to watch," she said.

But Rodrigo decided quickly not to focus on personal anguish. She has chosen, instead, to put her grief to use by aiding those in Sri Lanka who need it most.

Since Dec. 26, she has sent to Sri Lanka more than 3,000 pounds of immediate-relief items collected in Santa Monica. The donations include baby supplies,



Modrey Floyd/Special to the Daily Press

Nisha Rodrigo (right), a native of Sri Lanka who recently opened a business in Santa Monica, works with Kip Leting to prepare boxes of relief supplies to send to the tsunami-stricken country.

food, medicine, blankets and camping supplies. Once the need for emergency aid has dissipated, she plans to refocus her efforts on helping to rebuild homes.

See **RODRIGO**, page 4

COMMUNITY PROFILES | COMMUNITY PROFILES IS A WEEKLY SERIES THAT APPEARS EACH MONDAY AND DELVES INTO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN SANTA MONICA.

Director opens people's eyes to the world

BY DIDIER DIELS

Special to the Daily Press

OCEAN AVE. — Universal Pictures recently stripped the walls, boxed his belongings and unceremoniously ejected Taylor Hackford from his Santa Monica offices at 3000 Olympic Blvd.

"What happens when you finish a project is they kick you out," said Hackford, sporting a black leather jacket and his trademark white beard while sitting at a poolside cabana at the Viceroy hotel. Finishing the thought, he immediately broke out



TAYLOR HACKFORD

laughing.

The 60-year-old producer, director and co-writer of "Ray," the biography of Ray Charles

Robinson's life and music, is in demand. His dream project, once passed on by Hollywood as too dated and too black to find an audience, took \$30 million to make and has already grossed more than \$72 million domestically, pre-DVD release and not counting soundtrack sales. The film will be released on DVD Feb. 1.

The film garnered a Golden Globe nomination for best picture, and although it didn't take home that award last night, Jamie Foxx won best actor for his role as Ray

See **PROFILES**, page 12

Mystery photo



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The first person to describe where this was taken will win a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. E-mail responses to sack@smdp.com.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Expenses cause you to put a halt to some plans. Opportunities knock on your door because of your long-term devotion to a project. Others work with you, adding to your ideas. Together you make quite a team. Tonight: Your treat.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your words finally tumble on the "right" ears. No longer do others choose to be non-responsive, rather they blurt out suggestions. Co-workers pitch in on a project. Friends pull together to make a heartfelt cause a reality. Tonight: You have a lot to smile about.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Knowing when to hush up and not share every detail could make a substantial difference. Working with a key partner or family member allows many more options. A flirtation could be building on the sidelines. Tonight: Take your time.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Zero in on the bottom line in meetings, discussions and with an ebullient family member. You finally get support from others. Information and news from a distance tosses you off your position — all the better. Tonight: Where the action is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for those around you. Take a stand if need be. Others listen well to your ideas, giving you the respect you want and need. You pull the wild card financially — anything could happen. Buy that lottery ticket. Tonight: Work late.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for more information and different perspectives. The more feedback you get, the better your choices will be. Emphasize finances, investments and perhaps spending more if it will help the quality of your day-to-day life. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Good intentions will get you everywhere. Work with others on a one-on-one level. Your ability to focus peaks when dealing with someone. He or she could get silly out of the blue. Enjoy the fun moments. Tonight: Quality time.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others run with the moment. Somehow you wind up at the bottom of the pile. Instead, don't even try to participate — just observe. Your instincts help you with your words. Others will respond if you use your newfound diplomatic style. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might not be up for diving into work like there is no tomorrow. Just the same, don't give in to a risk; follow through on your responsibilities. Meetings and friends support you in making a financial coup. Tonight: Fit in time for exercise.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take charge with others. Your creative and assertive personality comes through. No wonder others seek you out and want your feedback. Knowing what you want could be instrumental in your leadership. Tonight: Try not to waste your time.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to anchor in and work alone, or perhaps from home. Laugh, and others will join in. You set the pace far more often than you realize. Know (for once!) that you are coming from a practical point of view. Tonight: Make your home your castle.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You ask, and others respond. You might not have realized how much your opinions do make a difference. A partnership flourishes because of your good will and generous attitude. Make money together. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.



AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The 'ultimate fight' coming to local bar

By Daily Press staff

A viewing party will be held at a local bar next week for the light-heavyweight champion boxer who will make his television debut.

The premiere viewing party for "The Ultimate Fighter" will be held on Jan. 17 at The Over/Under Club at 14 Below. Doors open at 10 p.m., and the show on Spike TV airs at 11 p.m. Admission is free.

Lodune Sincaid, "The Vanilla Gorilla," will be making his television debut with 16 other ultimate fighters from across the Americas with one dream, one goal — to become The Ultimate Fighter.

Sincaid, a 31-year-old award-winning fighter from St. Paul, Minn., and U.S. Navy veteran, is presently living in Ventura County and training with Team Freedom at Knock Out Gym in Westlake Village. He has also trained with martial arts legends Gene Lebel, Gokor Chivichian and Benny "The Jet" Urquidez. Lodune was an all-conference wrestler in high school in the 160-pound class.

The 16 fighters arrive in Las Vegas to begin their journey towards the UFC contract. The fighters will see the UFC training center for the first time, and will meet the coaches who will be training them over the next several weeks. In the end, The Ultimate Fighter will be decided by a competition match — a head-to-head fight to the finish inside the Octagon, which will be live in Las Vegas in April.

The "Vanilla Gorilla" will be at 14 Below to sign autographs and speak with fans.

City pays settlement in bus accident

By Daily Press staff

City Hall agreed during a closed session last week to pay Brandee Bradley a settlement of \$29,500 for injuries she sustained when a city bus rear-ended her car on Colorado Avenue on July 23, 2003.

Bradley received injuries to her back that required extensive physical therapy, according to court documents. Although City Hall originally denied any responsibility for the accident, the City Council and Bradley agreed to mediate a settlement in order to avoid further litigation.

Redford building featured in Coastal Living magazine

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica building has been recognized in a national magazine for its cutting-edge design that makes it the most environmentally friendly structure in America.

Because America's waters are quickly becoming endangered, Coastal Living magazine begins each year by recognizing people and organizations committed to protecting the shore. The Coastal Living Awards salute those who have a passion to preserve the coast by giving awards in five categories: Design, community development, education, leadership, sea and shore preservation, and tourism. The 2005 Coastal Living Award winners are featured in the January-February issue of Coastal Living.

The Robert Redford Building on Second Street in downtown Santa Monica — known as the "greenest building" in America — offers the latest in environment-friendly design. The building is equipped with solar panels on the roof that provide 20 percent of the building's energy needs. A basement system uses rainwater to nourish plants and flush restrooms, which conserves drinking water and reduces runoff into the Santa Monica Bay.

For more information about Coastal Living Award winners, pick up a copy of the January-February issue of Coastal Living, or log on to the magazine's Web site at www.coastalliving.com.

Coastal Living is currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Coastal Living awards. Next year's competition will feature six categories: Design, community development, education, leadership, sea and shore preservation and tourism.



SURF REPORT

The W wind swell (260-280) will fill in a bit more today and boost the surf ever so slightly and the SSW swell (180-200) will provide modest energy at the better exposed spots. For the better W facing breaks look for surf in the ankle- to waist-high range, while standouts see some occasional bigger sets. S facing spots are mostly in the 1-2' range. Expect fair conditions today.

Look for this swell mix to be backing off on Tuesday, although some larger WNW swell will take its place through the middle of the week.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	7:30	1.9	7:16	0.5	1:17	4.6	12:42	2.2
SUNDAY	8:37	1.7	8:01	1.2	2:09	4.7	2:04	3.3
MONDAY	10:19	1.3	8:53	1.9	3:03	4.7	4:03	2.8
TUESDAY	11:42	0.7	9:58	2.3	3:59	5.0	6:10	2.8
WEDNESDAY	12:41	0.2	11:07	2.6	4:52	5.2	7:31	3.1
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	1:25	0.2	5:40	5.3	8:19	3.3
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	1:25	0.2	5:40	5.3	8:19	3.3

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The Q Line

The RAND Corp., a Santa Monica-based international think tank, recently released a report that details the deplorable condition of California's public school system. The state lags behind in almost every objective in education — student achievement, class size, teacher salaries and teacher experience, to name a few. And now, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to cut \$2.8 billion in education to balance the budget.

Despite how poorly school districts perform throughout the state, Santa Monica and Malibu fare

pretty well. But that's because the local community has supported the school district with hundreds of millions of dollars through bonds, parcel taxes, private donations and City Hall contributions.

So this week, Q Line wants to know, "Should it be left up to communities throughout California to fund their own school districts, or is it the state government's responsibility?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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SM relief organization to seek nonprofit status

RODRIGO, from page 1

Rodrigo is the owner of a recently opened art and wellness center in downtown Santa Monica called Shatki's Elements. Her storefront is a command center where she spends her days taking donations, contacting local vendors for food and medical donations, and packing up hundreds of boxes of supplies.

These days she has little time to run the business she spent more than a year planning.

"Business has become my second priority," she said. "I don't know how I could not help and still sleep at night."

Although the response she has received from the community has been positive overall, Rodrigo said she has been approached by people "calling me crazy for doing this when I have my own business to take care of."

Rodrigo acknowledges that she is scared about what will happen to her business, which has been open for a month, but said the benefits far outweigh the risks.

"I wouldn't be able to live myself if I didn't do all I could to help my own people," she said. "At least I will be fine knowing I did the right thing."

All the aid collected by her fundraising organization, Aid to Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims, is going directly to the north and northeastern sections of Sri Lanka, two of the poorest and hardest-hit areas of the country, Rodrigo said. Because of mountains, the lack of highways and infrastructure destroyed by the earthquake and floods, these areas are also the hardest

geographically to reach, and therefore the most under-served with aid.

"These people need aid more than anyone in Sri Lanka," Rodrigo said.

Rodrigo said her group has been able to help those in the north and northeastern sections because she is working with friends and family already in Sri Lanka who can reach these areas.

Her fiancé, Nzazai Malonga, is in Sri Lanka working at refugee camps.

Rodrigo tells people in Santa Monica who wonder how to help tsunami victims to "imagine you were alone in the street and everything was gone. You had no clothes. You had no parents to help you. What would you want from the world?"

But although basic supplies are desperately needed, Rodrigo said a human connection is often what people need most.

"It's about contact. It's about hugging that kid to let him know that there is help," she said. "No amount of money can replace that."

Rodrigo and D'lo, her best friend and partner in Aid to Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims who is also from the country, have both lost a number of friends and family members in the earthquake and floods, but do not want to exploit their personal losses for the sake of their fundraiser.

"We don't want this to be about us," Rodrigo said.

D'lo visited Sri Lanka for Christmas and was flying home at the time the Tsunami hit. She spoke about one friend she visited on her trip who was lost in the tsunami.

"She went to the beach that day," she

said. "Everybody in Sri Lanka goes to the beach."

D'lo was told about the death over the phone just hours after leaving Sri Lanka.

"At that time, I came home, I didn't know how bad the tsunami was," she said. "The media was reporting about 3,000 people dead."

Although her mother tried to hide the bad news from her, D'lo's cousin called and reported that her friend had been killed.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I had seen her two days before."

The water is now calm again, and the country is focused on the future, but Rodrigo said rebuilding her country will take three phases, the first being emergency relief — getting food, temporary shelter and drinking water to victims.

Once the emergency situation is over, the reconstruction of infrastructure can take place, and homes, roads and marketplaces will be rebuilt.

Although most people see the rebuilding process as being over once residents have been returned to their homes, Rodrigo said the hardest work will just be beginning.

"The economy of Sri Lanka has been destroyed," she said.

Most devastating is the effect the tsunami will have on Sri Lanka's growing tourism industry. After years of civil war in the country, Sri Lanka was beginning to see a major increase in American and European visitors. And then the tsunami hit, catapulting the country back to square one, she said.

The lingering effects of a wounded

economy will hurt Sri Lanka long after electricity and water have been returned, Rodrigo said.

"Countries are lending us money on credit, they aren't giving it to us," she said. Rodrigo fears it will be impossible to pay the money back.

Rodrigo said that living in Santa Monica, an affluent city also on the ocean, gives residents a big reason to help victims in Asia.

Not only does "great privilege come with great responsibility," she said, it is not unrealistic to think this could happen here.

Rodrigo said plans are in the works to turn Aid to Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims into an official nonprofit organization. Rodrigo can then begin work on the second phase of aid: rebuilding homes.

Because her group is not yet an official nonprofit, Rodrigo did not qualify for free shipping to Sri Lanka. Although she said Air Lift USA has been very generous in giving her a discounted rate, money is still needed to pay for shipping.

"All the money needed to ship out aid supplies has come from community donations," Rodrigo said. "We would not be able to afford all this without that money,"

To donate money or supplies to Aid to Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims, call (310) 576-2008, or donate money online through www.omzen.com.



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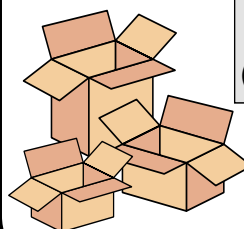


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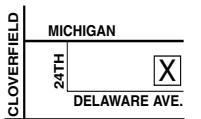
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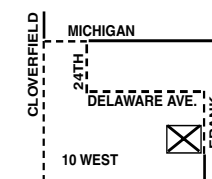
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Tsunami detection system gives SM three-hour notice

MEMORIAL, from page 1

vival,” Setterholm said.

“I heard that term on the radio on my way over, and I just thought it fit perfectly — celebrate those who are here,” she said.

Religious leaders from six different groups in Santa Monica — representing Catholicism, Christianity, Scientology, Buddhism and Chumash Native American spirituality — stood together in the group prayer ceremony. Choosing different words to express their faith, they delivered a singular message of inclusion.

“We all call God by different names,” said Mati Waiyn, a Chumash tribal leader. “But we are all his children. We are all here for the same reason — because our hearts are broken.”

Rev. Hartshorn Murphy of St. Augustine by the Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Monica said the entire world is united — particularly in situations of disaster.

“While we may be of different faiths, we are all called to be partners,” he said. “We are all brothers and sisters, part of the same family.”

Speakers tried to make sense of the disaster, saying people must accept what they can’t control.

“We don’t have the answers, but we have to respect and honor [nature],” said John Weigelt, pastor of the New Life Christian Church in Carson.

Mahinda, a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka, thanked the community for the support he received in Santa Monica, which he characterized as a blessing of “loving-kindness,” a basic tenant of Buddhism.

“May we all be free from suffering. May we all be free of sorrow. May we all be well and happy,” he said.

When the prayers ended, 12 surfboards with flowers, one representing each country affected by the tsunami and one for the unknown victims, were carried down the pier in a processional by volunteers. The boards represented the thousands of lives lost, Setterholm said.

Children, some of whom were walking down the pier with parents when the ceremony began, were asked to hold signs with the names of the affected countries.

When the processional made its way to the beach, about 20 surfers paddled out to the end of the pier and formed a circle around surfboards covered in flowers for

the final ceremony, which included the recital of a Chumash prayer known as “Four Corners” and the release of flowers into the ocean to memorialize the dead.

Onlookers stretched from the sand to the water on the northern side of the pier as they recited “rest in peace” for all 11 countries that experienced death, and tossed flowers given to them by volunteers into the ocean. Finally, surfers took the flowers off the boards and released them to the ocean to symbolize a final goodbye.

“Leaving the flowers there is what really tore me up,” Setterholm said. “I knew it would. It was tough paddling away because that meant you had to accept that death happened.”

Melissa Neff, a surf instructor who participated in the paddle out, said she wanted to be a part of the event because as a member of the surf community, she felt especially close to the tragedy.

“Out in the water there was this vibe, you really felt close to everyone,” she said.

Many of those in attendance were visitors to Santa Monica. Miriam Goodwin, a tourist from Geneva, Switzerland, was visiting family in Santa Monica. When she read about the event, she immediately made plans to attend.

“There were many memorial ceremonies in Europe,” she said. “I had been very disappointed because I missed them, so I was so happy to be able to participate here. I love Santa Monica, and the ceremony was very moving.”

Setterholm said her biggest fear was that the event would be a disappointment. But after the surfers emerged from the water, her fears subsided.

“I think the community will feel good knowing we did this,” she said. “For some of these people, this was the only opportunity for them to express their grief. Spiritually, I feel like we did something good.”

Setterholm said the event would not have run smoothly without the cooperation she received from the Santa Monica Police Department, the Los Angeles County Lifeguard, the city of Santa Monica, and the Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier.

The PRC, which Setterholm said usually charges about \$5,000 for an event, waived the fee and let the memorial take place free of charge.

“The community really came together,” she said. “I have seen that a few times before in times of tragedy.”

The Santa Monica chapter of the Red Cross, UNICEF, Save the Children and The Dharma Vijaya Temple — a Sri Lankan Buddhist temple and nonprofit organization providing aid in that country — also participated in the event by taking donations and updating participants on progress in the area.

According to a spokesman for the Santa Monica chapter of the Red Cross, \$250,000 has been collected from Santa Monica residents for tsunami relief, and \$400 million has been collected overall. More than \$50 million of that will go toward temporary infrastructure to house displaced people and provide safe drinking water.

Ananda Amarawansa, a Sri Lankan native and representative from The Dharma Vijaya Temple, was visiting his country at the time of the tsunami and witnessed the damage firsthand.

“Children are displaced, families are displaced, and lives are destroyed,” he said at Saturday’s memorial.

Sri Lanka was one of the countries hardest hit by the earthquake and floods, but despite the destruction, Amarawansa is confident his country will become a beautiful place once again.

“Within one year we are going to rebuild and bring the smiles back to the people,” he said.

Many Santa Monicans at the ceremony

couldn’t help but draw comparisons between their homes and those destroyed in Asia. There is, however, one difference between the two areas. In Asia, there was no detection system in place to give advance warning of a tsunami. Although plans are now being discussed to add systems in the Atlantic Ocean in lieu of the disaster, the Pacific is the only ocean with a system, giving Californians much-needed warning time in the event of an emergency.

Lifeguard Chief Scott Davey of the Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard division said if a tsunami were to head toward southern California, the detection system put in place by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would give officials about a three-hour notice to evacuate residents.

Davey said the lifeguard is tied to the U.S. Coast Guard. In the event of the emergency, all three divisions would coordinate from the beginning, making the evacuation and rescue process expedient and efficient.

Still, California sits on a fault line, and the ocean lies in Santa Monica’s backyard. Because a similar tragedy could happen here, having an event in Santa Monica was especially relevant, Setterholm said.

“For all we know, LA may be next on the list of nature’s capricious assaults,” she said on her Web site. “Will we be a people prepared with hearts of courage and generosity toward strangers on a ‘tsunami day?’”

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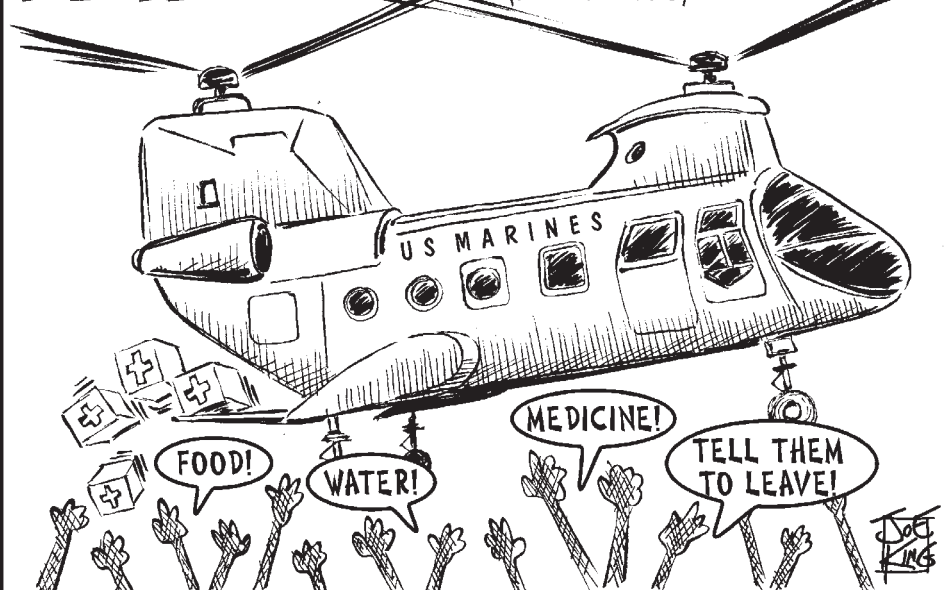
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OPINION

FUNNY PAPERZ

"HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?"
(M-A-R-I-N-E-S)



Indonesia orders halt to aid of tsunami victims. -News Item

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hawaii choir trip a lavish expense

Editor:

The rebuttal letters to my opinion on the upcoming Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District choir trip to Hawaii by arts coordinator Tom Watts and schools superintendent John Deasy's letter (SMDP, Jan. 10, page 4), and the letter by Lisa Kannof of the Choral Parents Association Steering Committee (SMDP, Jan. 11, page 4) made little sense to me, and I am sure less to others who read them. I was surprised, I will admit, that the Jaffe-Davis CEPS camp hadn't responded as well. To begin with, it is an undisputed fact that the city of Santa Monica, along with all other cities in the entire state, is under no obligation to give any amount of taxpayers' monies to the school district. That is a state legislatively made mandate. All these people should be begging, threatening, coercing and talking drastic charter changing to our highly beloved Governor Schwarzenegger. The trips are viewed by others not part of the SMMUSD and the parents of these students as excessive and unnecessary. And what trips, if any, do all of the greater numbers of other students not in the choir or music classes enjoy? How can you justify these extravagant trips when out of the other sides of your mouths you keep crying that the schools have no funding for regular normal academic programs? That's acting something like hypocritically isn't it?

Lisa Kannof opens with: "Let the people know the real facts," which we are waiting to get to by the way — financial assistance programs are a college thing, not high school. It is presumed that by that time students are generally weaned off of their parents financially, and usually to their relief, by taking some or all responsibility of paying for their own educations. Kannof goes on with what seems like a smoke and mirrors bit, when saying in choosing venues, that she/they hold the "educational value and musical expectations as top priorities, including international options."

Wow wee Lisa, good for you, but that does not make proper what amounts actually to the open embezzling of any such taxpayers' monies through City Council hands for you and your elite group to enjoy such pleasure trips cleverly designed as something necessary for the public to provide. The entire funding for these obscenely expensive student/parent vacations ought to be the sole responsibility of themselves. The Choral Parents Association has a steering committee to extract this scarce funding from the City Council? Get that. The SMMUSD, the choir, or its supporting staff, the parents, and CEPS, don't have to accept any "invitations." Certainly not the costliest of them, and especially not international invitations, which they know to begin with they cannot afford, and then beg the City Council to provide them with what they are short of their entertainment expenses.

Student diversity in choirs, bands, musical programs, etc., and the gift wrapping, coupled with stating that they intend to raise further future funds with a silent auction, car washes, etc., in no way justifies milking \$25,000 from the City Council for such frivolous vacation trips that only a small percentage of the entire student body will enjoy — funds ought to be used to help all students, academically.

Don Krok
Santa Monica

The tyranny of having too many options in life



COMMON SCENTS

BY CAROLE ORLIN

My living room walls have been a non-descript color for four years now. And they are bare of adornment. It's not that I don't want to fix this problem, nor that I don't have the funds to do so. It's just that there are so many choices that I get bogged down in making a decision. Do I want my walls antique white, off white, coffee-bean white (since when are coffee beans white?), eggshell, cloud 1, 2 or 3? (I can't tell the difference between 1, 2 and 3, but it just might be that subtle difference that makes or breaks the room.) Do I want them evening sage, morning sage, sycamore green, silver birch, sunburst marigold? Do I want them to be bright and invigorating, or soft and soothing? Do I want to make a bold statement or a subtle statement? Do I want to be adventurous or traditional? I can hire a color consultant or interior designer and let them worry about it, but there are so many of them, how do I know I've chosen the best one? So my walls remain bleak and bare. I know that doing nothing is in itself a choice, but at least it hasn't cost me a small fortune to keep it that way.

That dilemma sent me to do some research about the relatively recent phenomenon of choice overload. Barry Schwartz, Ph.D., from Swarthmore College, has written a book called "The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less." Dr. Schwartz is frequently quoted in a surprising number of articles that have appeared on this subject. A key premise of the Schwartz book is that today's world offers us more choices but less satisfaction.

Dr. Schwartz uses the example of the huge amount of choices facing him in each aisle of his local supermarket. He counted 85 different brands of crackers, 285 varieties of cookies — including 21 different kinds of chocolate chip cookies, 65 box drinks for kids, 40 options for toothpaste, 116 kinds of skin-care creams, 90 different cold remedies, and worst of all, 360 types of shampoos, gels, conditioners and mousses. I myself have pondered the dilemma of choosing a shampoo — either for volume or smoothness or sun protection. I have come to the conclusion that I will have to use three different shampoos each time I wash my hair to get all that I need.

Through his studies, Dr. Schwartz contends, "everyday decisions, big and small, have become increasingly complex due to the overwhelming abundance of choices. We assume more choice means better options and greater satisfaction, but choice overload can make us question our decisions. It can set us up for unrealistically high expectations, and it can make us blame ourselves for any and all failures. This can lead to decision-making paralysis, anxiety and perpetual stress."

When there are limitless choices, we have no excuse for failure. He talks of how choice can be liberating until it becomes too much. There are just so many hours in a day, and so much energy we can put out to sort through all the options of everything: from doorknobs to college choices, cell phones, 401K plans,

insurance options, physicians, pension plans, etc.

Some researchers, according to writer Tori DeAngelis in an article last summer for the American Psychological Association, found that too much choice "can lead people to make simple snap judgments just to avoid the hassle of wading through confusing options." She references an article in the Journal of Consumer Research by Alexander Chernev, Ph.D., which found that when people were offered variants of the same brand of toothpaste (cavity prevention, tartar control, whitening, etc.), they tended to switch to another brand that offered a single option. Chernev reported on four studies where he found that "the bigger the assortment, the harder it is for people to choose, except under one condition: When they enter with an articulated preference." Frequently they choose what the 1978 Nobel Laureate in economics, Herbert Simon, Ph.D., referred to as a "satisficing" option, meaning going with the first decent choice that fits their preference as opposed to scanning all options until finding the perfect or "maximizing" one.

Prior to his book, Dr. Schwartz in a 2002 paper in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology discusses the fact that people who strive for maximization are more prone to depression and perfectionism, are more likely to compare themselves negatively with others, and are more prone to regret than those who use satisficing strategies. Schwartz professes that "you may do slightly less well objectively, but you'll feel better about the results." And think of the time you will have saved to do other things. Schwartz fears that the profusion of choices we have can turn us into maximizers and thus prone to misery and depression.

Christopher Caldwell, book critic with The New Yorker magazine, during a recent review of Dr. Schwartz's book, writes about a radio producer who got a promotion because he was a good decision-maker even though not all of his decisions worked out. He was hired because he was good at making decisions. The boss was less worried about occasional mess-ups than the daily paralysis of someone "too cowed by choice to choose at all." After decades of research, Mr. Caldwell points out that most people are in fact terrible choosers. "They don't know what they want, and the prospect of deciding often causes not just jitters but something like anguish," he wrote. Perhaps those that cannot decide should turn to Robert Reich's recent book, "The Future of Success." Modern consumers can deal with their anguish by "outsourcing" choice and simply hire experts to assist them in making choices.

Despite all the drawbacks of choice overload, I have not for one moment forgotten how lucky I am to live in a society that allows freedom of choice. I can look at all these choices as an opportunity to decide which things are worth my time and can help me to learn more about who I am, what is important and what is the right choice at any given point in time. Not easy, but worth it. Now let's see if all this translates into choosing a paint color for my living room.

(Carole can be reached at Caroleorlin@yahoo.com).



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Lessons of a wrong number



HIP TO BE SQUARE

BY CAROLINE BODKIN

Message number three of four that awaited my return Friday after a day of lull began with the longest sigh I've ever heard. Then, "Where are you ..." The voice was like the whisper that would follow three years of screaming from the bottom of a well.

"I'm so sorry things are this way," the voice continued, and I began picturing this person, the person sitting at the bottom of whatever well he's fallen into.

I see a man in an office, a tie leashed around his neck, his making this phone call from an office amidst other tightly tied men and high-heeled women. And all of them seem totally together — totally without need of this type of phone call. None of whom know the dank of a well's bottom.

I realized the man had paused as if to allow for my reverie. And then he said, "I just ... sometimes I want to leave Marcy so badly, I love you so much, but I can't. It's gone on too long, and you're so beautiful."

I had no idea who this man was. Didn't recognize the voice, never heard of Marcy. He'd gotten the wrong number.

"I'll be at Storm's. We'll talk about it in private. Call there to let me know you're coming," and then he gave a number to a hotel I remember seeing in Santa Barbara. A five star. The kind in which I'd imagine lovers might meet.

"I'm in room 526 this weekend ... I have to go. Just — just call there, OK?" And the whisper stopped, and my answering machine moved on to message four.

Secrets present a funny illogic in the human psyche: No matter how many secrets we keep to ourselves, we still assume during regular operating hours that we are the only ones that have them.

The man who filled the gas: normal life. The woman at the bank: normal life. The girl at reception: normal life. We arrive at the classroom or site or office and greet the people with whom, every day, we exchange normal conversation and then go away from that place to face whatever oddities have quirked our own lives. We assume that the other people are going home to beef and peas and sitcoms.

Assuming that no one else's mother is living with cancer but telling no one. Assuming that no one else daydreams of going home and setting it all on fire a la Edward Norton in Fight Club for just one breath of unattached Zen freedom. Assuming that the conversations behind the desks are all quite normal.

But here I was, listening to the man in

the necktie struggle ever so quietly amidst his daily dose of "presumably normal" facing what could be the worst turn he's ever taken. Or, at least, the most telling.

As for me, I was in a quandary. This desperate man called out from the bottom of his emotional well, and when he meant to call the one person he believes can pull him out of it, he got me. Do I call and tell him his message cannot be answered simply because it was not received?

If I call him and tell him, I propagate an affair that might end up hurting a lot of people. If I do not and if he lasts the night with no visitor — the shooting star of an affair might fade peacefully. If I do call him there might be love, which is more important than anything. If I don't call him, he might stay at the bottom of that well for a long, long time, never able to scale the walls himself.

We wrap secrets tight, the heart's most sacred dermal. We revere them for their dire importance. As a result, we refuse to tell people the most important pieces of our lives, but then we expect them to understand even the slightest bit of who we are.

For a moment, while I debated my move, I started to picture a world in which everyone wore their secrets like rock concert T-shirts: A beautiful young couple walks hand in hand, the wife wears the T-shirt that says "I'm terrified of pregnancy." The guy in front of the Power Point screen wears: "I cheated my way through school. Every day I think I'm wrong."

But this is not our reality. In our world, we share out of necessity, we're discovered, or we're lucky enough to tell secrets to the people we trust. And we are betrayed, or we are honored. We make enemies, or find lifelong friends, even lovers.

Suddenly I felt supremely relieved that I knew about the pending rendezvous. Not because I had the ability to call or not to call to make a decision. I knew that wasn't my job. I would do nothing and let fate play its game.

I was relieved because their secret was free. Whatever pain or love came, or will come of it, there was at least one other person to witness it in its most vulnerable state. Before there were excuses for it. Before there was anger from it. At the time when it was just two people sharing something difficult, or wrong, or horrible, or confused, or good in its way, there was one person who knew it was out there. They were no longer alone.

See, this thing we go through, be it from the classroom or the desk with the phone or from the bottom of our own well, we do not go through it alone.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily what messages await her. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquare-bodkin@yahoo.com).

GUEST COMMENTARY BY EDWIN A. LOCKE

What we should remember on Martin Luther King Day

What should we remember on Martin Luther King Day? In his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King said: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

This statement means that in judging other men, skin color should be ignored — that it should not be a factor in evaluating their competence or moral stature. It follows that skin color should not be a factor in taking actions toward other people, e.g., hiring and admitting to universities.

What has happened in the years following King's murder is the opposite of the "I Have a Dream" quote above. Colorblindness now has been replaced with color preference in the form of affirmative action. No amount of rationalizing can disguise the fact that affirmative action involves implicit or explicit racial quotas, i.e., racism.

Consider the realm of work as a case in point. Taking jobs away from one group in order to compensate a second group to correct injustices caused by a third group who mistreated a fourth group at an earlier point in history — for example, 1860 — is absurd on the face of it and does not promote justice. Rather, it does the opposite. It promotes racism. You cannot cure racism with more racism. Singling out one group for special favors (through affirmative action) ignores the fact that people are individuals — not interchangeable ciphers in an amorphous collective.

Consider a more concrete, though fictional, example. Suppose that since its creation in 1936, the XYZ Corporation refused to hire redheaded men due to a quirky bias on the part of its founder. The founder now dies, and an enlightened board of directors decides that something "positive" needs to be done to compensate for past injustices and announces that, henceforth, redheads will be hired on a preferential basis. Observe that: This does not help the real victims — the previously excluded redheads; the newly favored redheads have not been victims of discrimination in hiring, yet unfairly benefit from it; and the non-redheads who are now excluded

from jobs due to the redhead preference didn't cause the previous discrimination and are now unfairly made victims of it. The proper solution, of course, is simply to stop discriminating based on irrelevant factors. Although redheaded bias is not a social problem, the principle remains the same when you replace hair color with skin color.

The traditional solution to the problem of racism is colorblindness, or, from the other side of that coin, individual awareness. For example, in the job sphere there are only three essential things an employer needs to know about an individual applicant: Does the person have the relevant ability and knowledge, or the capacity to learn readily? Is the person willing to exert the needed effort? Does the person have good character, such as honesty and integrity?

The rational alternative to racial diversity, focusing on the collective, is to focus on the individual and to treat each individual according to his own merits. This principle should apply in every sphere of life — from business to education to law enforcement to politics. Americans have always abhorred the concept of royalty, that is, granting status and privilege, and conversely, inferiority and debasement, based on one's hereditary caste, because it contradicts the principle that what counts are the self-made characteristics possessed by each individual. Americans should abhor racism, in any form, for the same reason.

On Martin Luther King Day — and every day — we should focus on the proper antidote to racism and the proper alternative to racial thinking: Individualism. We need to teach our children and all our citizens to look beyond the superficialities of skin color and to judge people on what really matters, namely, "the content of their character."

(Edwin A. Locke is Dean's Professor Emeritus of Leadership and Motivation at the University of Maryland at College Park and is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead").



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STATE

Court dismisses killer's appeal, moves him closer to execution day

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Saturday declined to rehear an appeal from condemned killer Donald Beardslee, moving him a step closer to becoming the 11th person executed in California since it reinstated the death penalty.

Beardslee had challenged the state's method of execution by lethal injection, saying it constituted cruel and unusual punishment and will violate his free speech rights because it won't allow him to scream in pain.

The 9th Circuit refused to rehear Beardslee's appeal with an 11-judge panel, dismissing his case. The decision came a day after a three-judge panel ruled against him.

Beardslee's attorneys will now ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their challenge and stay the execution, which is scheduled for 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Beardslee, 61, was convicted of killing two Northern California women in 1981, three years after the state's death penalty was reinstated.

In one of his appeals, he claimed lethal injection would cause him to suffer from torturous pain. Beardslee's attorneys also claimed that the combination of a sedative and a paralyzing agent would mask whether he is experiencing excruciating pain while prohibiting him from crying out. They contend that is a violation of his freedom of speech.

The procedure is done in 26 of the 36 states that employ lethal injection.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never directly addressed whether death sentences carried out by lethal injection are cruel and unusual punishment, but have been asked repeatedly. The justices, however, have upheld executions in general despite the pain they might cause inmates.

When Beardslee's appeal reaches the justices, it will be their first to confront a claim that lethal injection violates the First Amendment.

The murders of which Beardslee was

convicted began when an accomplice, Frank Rutherford, shot Patty Geddling in the shoulder when she came to Beardslee's apartment in Redwood City. The defendants lured the two women there to seek revenge for being stiffed out of drugs.

Beardslee and Rutherford took the wounded Geddling, 19, to a roadside along Highway 1 in San Mateo County, where she was shot several times. Her friend, Stacey Benjamin, 23, was strangled and her throat slit. Her body was dumped hundreds of miles away in a secluded area in Lake County.

Rutherford got a life term and died in prison.

Beardslee, 61, was convicted of killing two Northern California women in 1981, three years after the state's death penalty was reinstated.

The condemned man's only other remaining court challenge already has been lodged with the Supreme Court. In that appeal, Beardslee claims jurors, when rendering a death verdict, were prejudiced into voting that way.

In that challenge, the 9th Circuit ruled that jurors wrongly considered that the murders were carried out to kill his two victims from being witnesses in court against Beardslee and Rutherford. But the circuit, in dismissing the challenge, ruled that the error didn't prejudice the jury's unanimous conclusion that Beardslee should die for the murders.

Only favorable decisions in either of those two cases, or if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger grants clemency, can spare Beardslee from being executed.



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NATIONAL



Bush faces challenges as he prepares for second term

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The list of major challenges confronting President Bush as he prepares to take the oath of office for the second time is exhausting.

Iraqi elections at month's end. The broad fight against terrorism. A daring overhaul of Social Security. Just to name a few.

"I'm rested and ready to continue to be your president," Bush likes to tell audiences.

Are his goals too ambitious?

Even some Republicans wonder, given that the president, whose inauguration is Thursday, has just a year or so before he effectively becomes a lame duck. By Bush's own account, he has 18 months to move his agenda through Congress.

And that does not take into account unexpected crises. Or the firestorm that will consume time and political capital should the opportunity arise for Bush to fill any vacancies on the Supreme Court.

Bush's plans could "encounter a fairly substantial wall of opposition — both from the Democrats and from the circumstances he faces when he takes his hand off the Bible," said Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University.

"It's questionable whether the January 30 election in Iraq will change much for the better," Baker said. "There's uneasiness among Republicans over the size of the deficit. And the president's effort to restructure Social Security is very risky."

In the short term, Bush must prepare his inaugural and State of the Union speeches, name someone to the powerful new position of national intelligence director, and submit his 2006 budget to Congress. The spending plan is expected to cut or freeze the amount of money available for dozens of federal programs.

Bush must keep close watch on Iraq's elections and on efforts toward resuming the Israeli-Palestinian peace process after last week's Palestinian elections.

In February, the president makes the first overseas trip of his second term. In Europe, he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and try to mend relations — still frayed over the Iraq war — with European allies.

Bush has said his second-term priorities are "to win the war on terror and do everything we can to protect our homeland" and then "continue to work to spread democracy."

Domestically, he has suggested that his No. 1 goal is overhauling Social Security.

But his idea to set up voluntary private investment accounts for younger workers in exchange for reducing guaranteed benefits in the future is drawing strong opposition. Lining up against it are Democrats and the AARP, which represents 35 million older people, as well as Republicans who support private accounts but oppose benefit cuts.

Bush can win congressional approval only "if he doesn't try and cut benefits," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said in an interview. "The system can't handle cutting benefits and doing the accounts, politically," said Gingrich, who is on a new book tour and exploring a bid for the 2008 presidential nomination.

The Social Security fight could be the biggest involving a domestic program since the 1993-94 battle over the Clinton administration's failed health care plan.

If Social Security isn't enough of a challenge, Bush also has proposed rewriting income tax laws; limiting medical malpractice and class-action jury awards; allowing oil exploration in Alaska wildlife areas; and a "guest worker" immigration plan that conservatives in his own party oppose.

Bush pledges "to work to cut our deficit in half over the next five years," yet in four years as president has not vetoed a single bill. He promises to send Congress a "tough budget" to put the government on a deficit-reduction path.

"I think he's going to have serious problems within his own party when it comes to budget issues," said Norman Ornstein, a political analyst specializing in Congress at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

"He's coming back with larger Republican margins in both houses, and I think we're going to see some vetoes. I also believe he's not going to be able to accomplish most of his domestic goals without greater bipartisan support," Ornstein said.

The partisan divide in Congress is wide. Consider how Senate Democrats hounded Bush's nominee for attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, over his role as White House counsel in developing terror-interrogation policies. Also, some Democrats delayed Congress' formal electoral vote for Bush's second-term victory to protest voting irregularities in Ohio.

On foreign affairs, skeptics abound abroad when it comes to U.S. policy on Iraq and elsewhere. Bush must deal, too, with the nuclear aspirations of Iran and North Korea. Russian President Vladimir Putin is consolidating power and moving Moscow away from democratic reforms, presenting a new challenge for Bush.

The U.S. economic outlook is more upbeat. Yes, the

continuing slide in the dollar or a new surge in oil prices could drive up interest rates and inflation. For now, however, both seem subdued.

The unemployment rate is down almost a percentage point over the past 18 months. Both government and private forecasters expect the economic recovery to continue.

The millions of job losses during the early part of Bush's presidency have all but evaporated. The Labor Department said 2.2 million new jobs were created in 2004, bringing to just 122,000 the net loss of jobs so far in Bush's first term.

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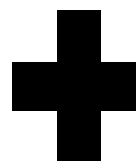
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NATIONAL

New federal diet guidelines to emphasize calories

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Cave men lived a healthy lifestyle: Their calorie intake stayed low because food was hard to find, and they exercised regularly to bring home the bacon.

The government wants Americans to follow that approach. Today, however, food is at their fingertips, driving has replaced running and people are fatter than ever.

New dietary guidelines coming out Wednesday are expected to place more emphasis on counting calories and exercising daily, along with swapping whole grains for refined ones and eating a lot more vegetables and fruits.

The advice is not really new. But Americans don't heed it, so the government sees the guidelines as an opportunity to change people's ways.

The recommendations will be incorporated into the familiar Food Guide Pyramid, which most Americans

know about but which few actually follow. The Agriculture Department is revising the pyramid for the first time since 1992, when it was developed.

"It has been a big problem in the past that basically, the federal government has published a booklet and then crossed their fingers and hoped that Americans ate better," said Margo Wootan, nutrition policy director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a health advocacy group.

"That's clearly not been enough. What we need is significant investment in programs and changes in policy and the food environment that help Americans to eat better and watch their weight," Wootan said.

The guidelines being issued by the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments were expected to reflect the recommendations of a 13-member panel of scientists and doctors who spent nearly a year reviewing Americans' diet and health.

The committee said people lead sedentary lifestyles and choose their food poorly, leading many to exceed the calories they need even as they fail to get enough nutrition.

Controlling calories — not limiting carbohydrates, as some popular diets recommend — is key to controlling weight, the panel said.

Also key is daily exercise. The panel recommended a minimum of at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise — brisk walking or gardening — on most days.

But it said many adults need to exercise for 60 minutes or more to prevent weight gain, and people who have lost weight may need to exercise for 60 to 90 minutes to keep it off.

The panel said to choose fats and carbohydrates wisely. That means severely restricting trans fat that can clog arteries and eating fiber-rich whole fruits and whole grain breads versus juice and refined grains. It said people need at least three one-ounce servings of whole grains each day.

People should eat five to 13 servings each day of fruits and vegetables, depending on their age and level of activity, the panel said.

The panel also said people need to reduce the amount of salt they eat to about one level teaspoon each day — salt is linked to high blood pressure — and they should drink alcohol in moderation, about one drink each day for women and two for men.

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NATIONAL



Some question propriety of high inaugural costs

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's second inauguration will cost tens of millions of dollars — \$40 million alone in private donations for the balls, parade and other invitation-only parties. With that kind of money, what could you buy?

■ Two hundred armored Humvees with the best armor for troops in Iraq.

■ Vaccinations and preventive health care for 22 million children in regions devastated by the tsunami.

■ A down payment on the nation's deficit, which hit a record-breaking \$412 billion last year.

■ Two years' salary for the Mets' new center fielder Carlos Beltran, or all of pitcher Randy Johnson's contract extension with the New York Yankees.

A big inauguration and its accompanying costs were considered a given, a historic ceremony with all the pomp, pageantry and celebrations that the nation had come to expect every four years.

But a recent confluence of events — the tsunami natural disaster, Bush's warning about Social Security finances and the \$5 billion-a-month price tag for the war in Iraq — have many Americans now wondering why spend the money the second time around.

While the Presidential Inaugural Committee hopes to raise \$40 million in private donations for the balls, parades and candlelight dinners for high-roller donors,

millions of government dollars will be spent on construction of the platform and stands at the Capitol, police overtime, military personnel and the tightest security for the first post-Sept. 11 inaugural.

The questions have come from Bush supporters and opponents: Do we need to spend this money on what seems so extravagant?

New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, a Democrat, suggested inaugural parties should be scaled back, citing as a precedent Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration during World War II.

"President Roosevelt held his 1945 inaugural at the White House, making a short speech and serving guests cold chicken salad and plain pound cake," according to a letter from Weiner and Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. "During World War I, President Wilson did not have any parties at his 1917 inaugural, saying that such festivities would be undignified."

Lawmakers representing the Washington area have complained to the White House about the District of Columbia not getting enough federal help to cover the city's portion of the inaugural security costs, estimated at \$17.3 million.

The president dismissed suggestions that the price tag for the inaugural is too high.

"The inauguration is a great festival of democracy," he said Thursday during a round-table discussion with reporters from 14 newspapers. "People are going to come from all over the country who are celebrating democracy

and celebrating my victory, and I'm glad to celebrate with them."

Organizers of the inaugural also defended the celebration. Tracey Schmitt, a spokeswoman for the Presidential Inaugural Committee, noted this year's theme of celebrating freedom and honoring service. She cited the Commander in Chief inaugural ball that offers free tickets to service members back from Afghanistan and Iraq and their family members. That ball is one of nine; the other eight require a ticket.

"Every inaugural there's a really good reason given why you should spend whatever donors are sending in on something else," said Rich Galen, a veteran Republican activist, saying many of the complaints come from the losers of the election.

Billionaire Mark Cuban, owner of the National Basketball Association's Dallas Mavericks, voted for Bush — twice. Cuban knows a thing or two about big spending, once starring in ABC's reality TV show, "The Benefactor," in which 16 contenders tried to pass his test for success and win \$1 million.

Cuban questioned spending all that money on the inaugural.

"As a country, we face huge deficits. We face a declining economy. We have service people dying. We face responsibilities to help those suffering from the ... devastation of the tsunamis," he wrote on his blog, a Web journal.

Cuban challenged Bush to set an example: "Start by canceling your inauguration parties and festivities."

New FBI task force on art theft hopes to learn about global trade

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Art theft may conjure up images of a suave movie villain creeping through a dark gallery — or last year's bold daylight robbery of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" from a Norway museum.

Most art heists, however, are far more subtle, involving forged documents, fake prints or smuggled cultural artifacts that slowly make their way into the hands of private owners or museums.

It's also a huge industry: Interpol ranks it third among property crimes worldwide.

A new national FBI task force on stolen art hopes to learn more about the global trade — and how to tackle it — with the help of professionals and scholars in museums, as well as art and antiques dealers.

Worldwide, only 5 percent to 10 percent of artwork reported stolen is recovered, said Lynne Richardson, who manages the art theft program at FBI headquarters in Washington. The group wants to learn more about how purloined art makes its way to U.S. shores.

"We would like to identify more smuggling groups, and more organized crime groups that are involved in this," she said.

This week, the eight task force members visited curators at the Impressionist-rich Barnes Museum, conservationists at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and archaeologists at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, as well as art and antiques dealers.

Most art stolen in the United States is taken during

residential burglaries, the FBI said. But perhaps the bigger problem is the sale of art stolen offshore to eager U.S. buyers, who may or may not sense their illicit history.

"By the time they arrive here, they have (forged ownership) papers on them," Richardson said.

Although collectors can be prosecuted for buying art that they know — or should know — is stolen, that rarely happens.

More often, prosecutors in recent years have gone after shady dealers, such as Frederick Schultz, a prominent New York art dealer now serving a 33-month sentence for trading in stolen Egyptian antiquities.

In a memorable Philadelphia case, the FBI set up a successful 1997 sting to recover a 1,500-year-old Peruvian "backflap" — a piece of gold armor worn by warriors — looted a decade earlier from a Mochu lord's grave in northern Peru.

While Peru got the \$1.6 million treasure back, the Miami smugglers who tried to sell it to an undercover agent spent just a few months in prison. The real target of the probe — Panamanian ambassador Francisco Iglesias, who allegedly helped get the large piece to New York through diplomatic mail — fled the United States and remains a fugitive.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Goldman, one of two federal prosecutors on the FBI task force, handled the

backflap case and others involving a Civil War expert who staged phony appraisals on the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow" and antique gun dealers who conned a Colt firearms collector out of about \$20 million.

"Every which way you can defraud somebody, it's taking place in the high-end art industry," Goldman said.

Federal prosecutors in Philadelphia say they've prosecuted about \$100 million in art fraud in the past four years alone.

At Penn's museum Thursday, archaeologist Clark Erickson described the pervasive looting that experts say has ravaged nearly all of Peru's ancient archaeological sites. The looters — locals who can make as much as \$1,000 selling a sought-after find to middlemen — are increasingly market-savvy, switching their hunt from metals to textiles, for instance, as demand and prices change.

Archaeological sites in poor or unstable countries — including Iraq and Afghanistan — are the most vulnerable. Experts have reported massive looting in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, whose regime threatened looters of antiquities with the death penalty.

"With some of new anti-terrorism laws, I expected this huge increase in announcements about intercepting smuggled archaeological material," Erickson said. "And it doesn't seem to be happening."

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 1

Charles.

The film also has generated no shortage of Oscar buzz.

For the director of such films as "An Officer and a Gentleman," "The Devil's Advocate" and "La Bamba," the success, Hackford hopes, will make more personal projects possible. Hackford recently sat down with the Daily Press to discuss his latest film, his life and times, and the man who was Ray Charles.

It took 15 years to get "Ray" onto the screen. Can you describe the process?

"It was really interesting in the sense of going in and trying to research and trying to spend time with Ray Charles because Ray Charles was himself not very forthcoming. He'd written an autobiography, and it's a very truthful autobiography, but he doesn't really get very much into emotional context. In other words, he tells the facts. You know, 'I was born. I grew up here. I went blind. I played the piano. I did bu-bu-bu.' But if you're trying to find out, you know, feelings and emotions about what he went through, he wasn't very forthcoming. He was a very self-contained guy. He said, 'Listen, I worked hard. I succeeded. A lot of people had it harder than I did.' You know, that's very admirable, but it's not at all helpful when you're trying to make a feature film about someone's life. That's all about trying to discover the person, the inside of the per-

son, and Ray had a diamond-hard exterior and didn't let people in very easily. It took years for me to get to know him."

In the film, it seemed that almost the only person he ever let in was his wife. Is that your feeling?

"And his mother. The thing that Ray Charles told me, to my face he said, 'I talked to my mother everyday of my life. She was the most important person in my life and responsible for everything I am and where I got to.' Now, his mother had been dead over 50 years when he told me this. So the fact that he still talked to his mother everyday of his life was very interesting and very telling. In his head, obviously she was there. Throughout the film I had these flashbacks, not only flashbacks, but these flashes to his mother commenting on the things he was doing with his life because she was a major presence in his life all the way through."

How do you remember Ray Charles?

"When I first met him I thought his whole blindness was a hoax. If he were at the hotel here, he'd have someone walk him around the pool and tell him where everything was. Then when you saw him, he'd walk you, telling you where to sit and pointing everything out. He never used a cane or a wand. He'd just memorize everything, and I think his motivation was to disarm you, to level the playing field. Black people have to be better, and a blind black person has to be even better. He never told me this, but that's why I think he wanted the film to be made. His

music is going to preserve his legacy. There's no question of that. I think he wanted the film to be done for people that are 'handicapped,' to let them know what they could achieve.

"Ray could also be very hard to work with. When we were recording background music for the film, I would tell him the emotion and the feeling I wanted to convey through each scene, but at first he played like he was performing for a crowd. When I tried to tell him to tone it down, he said, 'Ray Charles don't play bad for anyone. If you can't describe what you need, I might as well get the f--k out of here.' By the way, he was right. It was my fault. I was using visual terms to describe what the music should sound like, and it totally wasn't working. When I figured out what he needed, we fell into rhythm and really had a ball."

Where did your own interest in music originate?

"It started with my brother going to Korea and leaving me his records, which was Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and Dexter Gordon. I was 5. Five, 6, 7, I was listening to heavy jazz and really loving it. And realize I'm a child of the '60s. That was when I hit maturity and music was — it isn't today — but music at that time was an avenue of liberation. The music of the '60s really signaled a cultural change in America. The messages being stated, whether folk music or rock 'n' roll or Marvin Gaye doing R&B singing 'What's Going On,' were very pointed and very specific anti-establishment messages

that felt part of a movement. It feels silly talking about it now because you look back and all you see is a bunch of long hairs smoking pot, but that's not what it was about. It was a protest against an unjust war in Vietnam. There was a lot of people not just taking chances — and when you say 'protesting' they were not just chicken shits — they were people standing up for what they believe."

What would we find in your CD case?

"I listen to everything. I always listen to jazz. You would see a lot of bee-bop jazz. You would still see rock 'n' roll. You would see Kanye West and Timberlake and innumerable rap people. The ones I'm interested in are the artists. I listen to Jay Z, but I'm interested in the producers that make real art. When it's beautifully produced, it's cool like anything else."

How did you move from music into film?

"When I went to USC, I didn't major in film. I was in international relations and in politics. Campus was a very conservative place when I became student-body president. I knew people in school that would serve on the Nixon administration. The difference is I'm working class, and I always was working class. My mother was a waitress, and she raised me alone ... My sense when I ran for political office was to not follow in those old politics. When I was president, we created the first cooperative book exchange, where stu-

See PROFILES, page 13

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COMMUNITYPROFILES

PROFILES, from page 12

dents could exchange books and not get ripped off by book stores. I did the first student evaluation of the faculty. Want to talk about something controversial? That was controversial. I also tried to get USC to join the National Student Association, which was known as a pinko, commy organization at the time. That wasn't the part I was interested in, but I was trying to get some exchange between students at USC and at other universities. Believe me, there was a lot of shit happening in the '60s when I was there ... I won the highest honor, the order of the Palm, that year for what I'd done in student government, which was all populist, no-bullshit national politics. It was all about trying to empower students. I got the first thing passed where they actually contributed to a student activities fee. Student government was always powerless, but that year the budget went from \$1,000, \$2,000 to \$75,000, which meant we could bring speakers and concerts to campus.

"At the same time, I started hanging with some film students, and that gave me an opportunity to look at film. I wasn't one of those kids who grew up in a movie theater. 'I went there because I was crippled and sickly and all I could was live everyday in a movie theater.' No, f--k no. I was out everyday enjoying life and engaging in life. I didn't worship at the church of cinema. Ultimately, I started hanging with film students and started seeing the political power of film. My interest was in documentaries and being able to communicate politically. I graduated from USC and went into the Peace Corp. and to Bolivia."

How does the South America presented by your film "Proof of Life," in which leftist guerillas abduct and ransom a foreigner, relate to what the Peace Corp. hoped to achieve in that region?

"The fact is the Peace Corp. has a raison d'être that we're going to go out and show the world and help the world. It's nice and very well meaning. It's also ludicrous to think a liberal-arts graduate is going to go into some third-world country and teach farmers who have been harvesting their land for 3,000 years how to farm better. The reality of the Peace Corp. is it provides Americans the opportunity to live in another culture, not in Europe on the Riviera, but in a third-world culture on a level very close to the lowest poverty levels in the world. That's something Americans don't get an opportunity to do. You can't go through that and remain unmoved.

"The value of the Peace Corp. is it can give Americans a wake-up call, give them a chance to really see how the majority of the world lives. How can you ever come back to this country, which is incredibly privileged — we're privileged to live here — but also you're never quite as innocent, as naïve again. That infuses their concern and motivation now. You see incredible poverty in the Peace Corp. You're not going to solve it. People pick arms and revolt, and you can understand that. There was an oligarchy there. There was a power elite of very rich people, and people were rebelling. 'Proof of Life' is not really about that though. FARK, the organization depicted, preach communism. They preach Maoist doctrine, but they're f--king dope dealers. That's what they're doing. They're taking advantage of poor people in a same way they're criticizing others. Compared to the '60s, which was a much more naïve time, you see genera-

Taylor Hackford

Born: Dec. 31, 1945, Santa Barbara.

Background: USC student body president and Laurel and Palm award winner, Peace Corp. volunteer, award-winning KCET reporter and documentary director/producer, Academy Award winner for best dramatic short film.

Family: Hackford's mother, Mary, worked as a waitress and raised him and his brother by herself. He has two sons from two earlier marriages and is now married to actress Helen Mirren.

Aspiration: To complete a few more films before retirement and live happily with his wife.

Salary: More than the pay cut he took to make 'Ray.'

tions later that it is no longer naïve or idealistic. It's very much pragmatic. And for me, because I want to believe in the ideas I used to, it's more perverted.

Where did you go after the Peace Corp.?

"I sat through two weeks of law school at USC, but I'd really changed my thinking in the Peace Corp. I came back in 1969. The world was turned on its ear, and I decided that wasn't what I wanted to do. I lost my tuition. I lost all the money I put in, and I walked out of there and over to the mailroom of KCET, asked for a job and got one. About a year later, someone asked if I could shoot film. I lied and said 'yes.'"

Shortly after leaving KCET you won the Academy Award for best dramatic short in 1978. How did your time at a public access help you get there?

"While I was at KCET, I was watching movies all the time. I didn't tell anybody, but I would watch 12 to 14 feature films a week. I was learning how films were made. My documentary on Charles Bukowski had also won a PBS award for best feature and a San Francisco Critics award for best documentary, so I had some recognition for that and wasn't unknown.

"With 'Teenage Father,' I made it to look just like a documentary on teenage pregnancy. I actually made it look so much like a documentary that people were pissed off at the end of the movie when it said it wasn't real. People were really pissed off, but the Academy liked it and gave me the award. That really opened a lot of doors. It said I could direct."

When you made 'La Bamba,' you criticized Hollywood for only portraying Latinos as "drug dealers, prostitutes and gang members." How do you reconcile that with 'Blood In, Blood Out,' which deals with violent Latino gang members in the California correctional system?

"You have to respect a culture, but you can't baby it. With 'Blood In, Blood Out,' I wanted to show the flip side of 'La Bamba.' Immigrants in America have always had two avenues out of poverty. One is entertainment, and the other is crime. It was the same story for the waves of Jewish, Italian and Irish immigrants that came to this country much earlier, and I wanted to update that story to the Chicano experience. Jimmy Baca, the Chicano poet who left prison to win a National Book Award, is a good friend of mine. He said, 'I was one of those guys running around illiterate in the jail.' He learned to read and write in prison. Jimmy very much wanted this story to be told, and to people saying I'm stereotyping, I stand up for my choices."

You once saved Baca from a gun wielded by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford. Can you explain?

"Jimmy's a passionate guy. We were at Ford's house in New Orleans with a

whole bunch of writers, people Jimmy worshipped. Writers do drink, and all I know is I walked into the room and saw Ford pull a gun from a kitchen drawer. Yeah, I stepped in front of Jimmy. I walked in and said, 'Richard put that f--king thing away.' Did I save anyone's life? I doubt it. They're a couple of pos-turing f--king writers. Writers will drink, and they will posture. Think he was going

to actually shoot him? F--k no."

With Ray finished, where will you go from here?

"I've had a career. I realize I have hopefully a few more films to make but not a ton. Right now, I have three projects I want to work on that I feel passionate about. One is a script I'm developing for my wife that's not ready yet. Another is a music-related film, and the third is a historical drama, not a costume piece but a real historical drama, way older than the time period when 'Ray' takes place."

Can you talk about your relationship with your wife, actress Helen Mirren?

"I had two previous marriages, and I'm not proud they broke up. I have two sons from those marriages and have great relationships with both of them. Filmmaking can be a hard job. You're on the road shooting a lot. It weighs on and sometimes destroys relationships. If you wait a long time, you know when the right person comes along. When you find that person, you have to hold onto them."



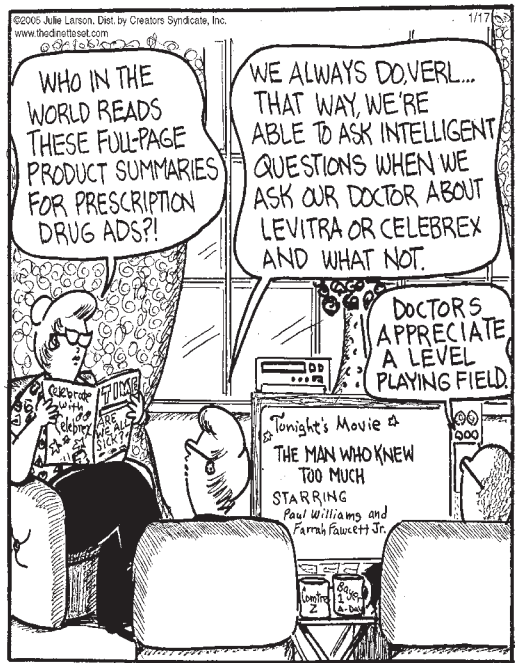
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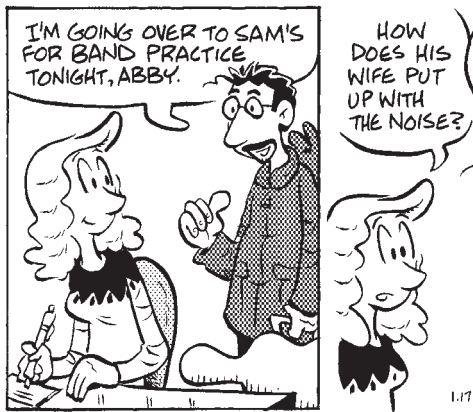


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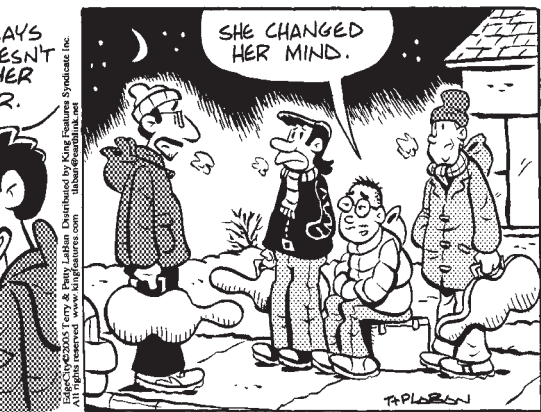
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MDR ADJACENT 2+2 @ 2724 Abbot Kinney, gated building with gated parking. Newer building w/ courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry, pkgng, 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. \$1550 (310) 578-9729

MDR ADJACENT. Beautiful contemporary 2Bd, 2.5Ba 2-story townhome @ 2500 Abbot Kinney w/fireplace, high ceilings, gated entry and 2 car gated parking. Dishwasher, laundry facilities, 1 year lease, no pets. \$1750 (310) 466-9256

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SANTA MONICA \$850/mo Studio 1bath. No pets, refrigerator, carpets, complete kitchen, private courtyard. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$895/mo 2story duplex 1bdrm 1bath. W/C pets, refrigerator, stove, balcony, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

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VENICE 2BED 1bath+den @ 25 19th Ave., Unit D \$2000/mo. Stove, fridge, blinds, free-standing fireplace, laundry, 1 space garage parking, no pets. (3 1 0) 5 7 8 - 7 5 1 2 www.JKWproperties.com

VENICE BEACHFRONT luxury condo 3 Bed, 3.5 bath @ 2917 Ocean Front Walk with amazing ocean and mountain views. 2 car gated parking, Gourmet Kitchen, spa style bathroom and much more. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, no pets. \$4850. (310) 466-9256

VENICE VERY nice, sunny studio @ 30 Horizon Ave. 1/2 block from beach, large closet. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310) 466-9256 925

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SANTA MONICA Retail 1844 Lincoln Blvd. 1800sqft \$3500/mo. Rear office/warehouse 1600sqft \$2000/mo or rent all \$59,000 option to buy. D. Keasbey (310) 477-3192

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Announcements

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Yard Sales

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 Brenda @ Santa Monica Daily Press (310) 458-7737

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3232133 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Universal Toner Supply, 426 Mary Ann Lane, Pomona, CA 91767. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Lewis Delbert Shaw, Jr., 426 Mary Ann Lane, Pomona, CA 91767 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Lewis D. Shaw
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/20/1999. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3198154 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Coaltan Trucking Company, 13610 Ranchhill Dr., Cerritos, CA 90703. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Martin Tadeo, 13610 Ranchhill Dr., Cerritos, CA 90703 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/1/1991. /s/: Martin Tadeo
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/1/1991. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3263558 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Reset Imagery, Reset Design, Reset, 3715 Clarington Ave., LA CA 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Benjamin Rosen, 3715 Clarington Ave., LA CA 90034, Brian Santos, 4832 St. Charles Pl., LA CA 90019 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Benjamin Rosen, Brian Santos

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3254478 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as California Western Express, 8129 Holmes Ave., LA CA 90001. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jose Torres, 8129 Holmes Ave., LA CA 90001, Noe Gonzalez, 8129 Holmes Ave., LA CA 90001 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jose Torres, Noe Gonzalez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3263022 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Transportes Monja Blanca, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Blanca France, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401, Jose Angel Franco, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/20/1999. /s/: Blanca Franco, Jose Angel Franco

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/20/1999. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE

DBAS

FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3263022 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Transportes Monja Blanca, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Blanca France, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401, Jose Angel Franco, 14436 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/20/1999. /s/: Blanca Franco, Jose Angel Franco
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/20/1999. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3262644 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Fast Fund Mortgage of the Antelope Valley, 1609 East Palmdale Blvd., #C, Palmdale, CA 93550. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Ken Collis, Jr., 4805 Prestwick, Palmdale, CA 93551, Stephen Becker, 44448 Ranchwood Ave., Lancaster, CA 93536 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/15/2004. /s/: Ken Collis, Jr., Sepghen Becker
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/15/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3263543 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Bernal Construction, 5037 Navarrp Sv. #11, LA CA 90032. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jose A. Bernal, 5037 Navarrp Sv. #11, LA CA 90032 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)5/15/2004. /s/: Jose A. Bernal
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 5/15/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3260238 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Denyana Palace, 15521 Longworth Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Alfred Basilious, 15521 Longworth Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650, Camila Basilious, 15521 Longworth Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/16/2004. /s/: Alfred Basilious, Camila Basilious
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/16/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3260423 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Infinite Electrical Engineering Technology, 8403 Barnsley Ave., Westchester, CA 90045. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : George Baramily, 8403 Barnsley Ave., Westchester, CA 90045 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: George Baramily

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3261509 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as L & D Trucking, 8117 W. Manchester Ave., Suite 219, Playa del Rey, CA 90293. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Johnny Doyle, 8700 Persing Dr., #2112, Playa del Rey, CA 90293, Alvin Lowe, 7034 Flight Ave., #103, LA CA 90045 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Johnny Doyle, Alvin Lowe

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3248638 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as A & E Construction, Kitchen Pro's, A&E Kitchen Pro's, 331 Albert Ave., Pomona, CA 91767. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Alfred G. Coburn, 331 Albert Ave., Pomona, CA 91767, Edgar Morataya, 1330 W. 84th St., LA CA 90044 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Alfred G. Coburn, Edgar Morataya
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3247537 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MRJ Fashions, 13006 E. Philadelphia Street, Suite 209, Whittier, CA 90601. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Ricardo De Jesus Hernandez, 10204 Sherrill Street, Whittier, CA 90601 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Ricardo De Jesus Hernandez
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3229482 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JW II Motorsports, Inc., AION# C2693007, 13117 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA 90242. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JW II Motorsports, Inc., 13117 Lakewood Blvd., Downey, CA 90242 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: JW II Motorsports, Inc.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3211623 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Fire Detection Systems, Construction Technologies, Sarinana Electric, 14329 Garyland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jose Luis Sarinana, 14329 Garyland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jose Luis Sarinana
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3211622 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Latin Network Group, 429 W. Riffin St., Monterey Park, CA 91754. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Leonardo Enrique Fandino, 429 W. Riffin St., Monterey Park, CA 91754 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Leonardo Enrique Fandino

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3229443 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Ammo Brothers, Ammo Bros., Ammobros.com, AION #2551023, 15969 Piuma Ave., Cerritos, CA 90703-1526. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Maximum Wholesale, Inc., 14920 Brighton Ct, Fontana, CA 92336 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to trans-

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act business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Maximum Wholesale, Inc
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04 3213323 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Harrambe Caffre, 1025 S. Fairfax Ave., LA CA 90019. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Yehaish Tesfay, 1511 S. St Andrews Pl, #101, LA CA 90019 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Yehaish Tesfay
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/27/2004, 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-3120129 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Junk In Our Trunk, 1525 10th St. #7, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Elizabeth Z. Eno, 1525 10th St. #7, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Gianna Paluso, 1525 10th St. #6, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Stephanie Lesky, 2423 4th St. #5, Santa Monica, CA, 90405 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Elizabeth Z. Eno, Gianna Paluso, Stephanie Lesky
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 043173930 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as After Midnight Productions, 1133 N. Ardmore Avenue, #2, Los Angeles, CA 90029. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jeffrey Arsenault 1133 N. Ardmore Ave, #2, Los Angeles, CA 90029 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jeffrey Arsenault
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04311700 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Thomas Design Group, 3129 West 152nd Place, El Camino Village, CA 90249-4005. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Thomas Jason Bleech 3129 West 152nd Place, El Camino Village, CA 90249-4005 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/1/2004. /s/: Thomas J. Bleech

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/3/2005, 1/10/2005, 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 043220926 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as James Riding, Inc, 426 1/2 N. Standley Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : BE THE BALL, CALIFORNIA 426 1/2 N. Standley Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/30/2004. /s/: James M. Riding

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/30/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO

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fictionitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0036501 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Phillips A/C, 4847 Fountain Ave., LA CA 90029. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Cynthia Ann Phillips, 14426 Addison St., LA CA 91423 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Cynthia Phillips This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0036500 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Mailbox Cafe.com, 4845 Fountain Ave., LA CA 90029. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Howard Ragland, 14426 Addison St., #7, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/1/2005. /s/: Howard Ragland This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/1/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0037203 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Angelcom Audio, 8202 Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90662. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Saul Ramirez, 8202 Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90662, Angelica Ramirez, 8202 Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90662 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)2/1/2001. /s/: Saul Ramirez, Angelica Ramirez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/1/2001. NOTICE: THIS

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0036513 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as One Nation Under Bob, 28369 Willow Canyon Ct., Santa Clarita, CA 91390. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Carrie Tyler Ferrone, 28369 Willow Canyon Ct., Santa Clarita, CA 91390, Courtney Autumn Hollinger, 28369 Willow Canyon Ct., Santa Clarita, CA 91390 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Carrie Ferrone, Courtney Hollinger This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0037230 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Lightfinder Realm, 422 E. 21st St., LA CA 90011. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : James Esquee, 422 E. 21st St., LA CA 90011 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: James Esquee This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0057662 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Westwex, 1936 E. Cortez, West Covina, CA 91791. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jason Gentry, 1936 E. Cortez, West Covina, CA 91791 This Business is being

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conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jason Gentry

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2004, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0023825 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Debt Specialists, AIONH 0608835, 12424 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1120, LA CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Weintraub & Selth, A Professional Corporation, 12424 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1120, LA CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Weintraub & Selth, A Professional Corporation This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Document Record # 04 3370010
Current File No. 04 3275848
State of California, County of Los Angeles
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name:
Maya Family Child Care
located at 6125 Glovrestor St, LA CA 90022
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 12/17/2004
In the county of LOS ANGELES.
Gloria Maya, 6125 Glovcester St., LA CA 90022
This business is conducted by: an individual
The above declares that all information in this statement is true and correct.
That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit: 01/10/05, 01/17/05, 01/24/05, 01/31/05

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0054960 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Zindea, 10424 Eastborne Ave., LA CA 90024. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Anshu Singhal, 10424 Eastborne Ave., LA CA 90024 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Anshu Singhal

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0054961 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Brotman Fine Furniture and Cabinetry, Form and Function, 3369 7th Ave., LA CA 90018. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : David Victor Brotman, 1864 Pandora Ave., LA CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/15/2002. /s/: David V. Brotman

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/15/2002. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0054959 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Ecolimo, LLC, AION# 200430610170, 1229 California Ave., #3, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Ecolimo, LLC, 1229 California Ave., #3, Santa Monica, CA 90403 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/14/2004. /s/: Ecolimo, LLC

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/14/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this

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statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0054964 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Soapure, Soapure.com, Undercoverage, 10401 Venice Blvd., #106-404, LA CA 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Fay Malia Jones, 10502 Regent St., LA CA 90034, Noah Thomas Jones, 10502 Regent St., LA CA 90034 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/1/2004. /s/: Fay Malia Jones, Thomas Jones

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/1/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0064244 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Tom's Towing, 1337 Berkeley St., Suite #4, Santa Monica, CA 90404. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Rahman Khasbabuei, 1337 Berkeley St., Suite #4, Santa Monica, CA 90404 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/20/2004. /s/: Rahman Khasbabuei

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/20/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0075127 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Shaggle Company, 111901 Santa Monica Blvd., #371. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Brandon Dion, 111901 Santa Monica Blvd., #371 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Regis-

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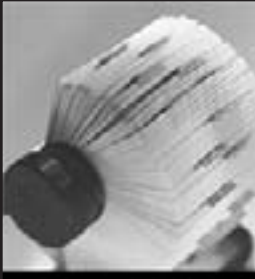
trant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Brandon Dion

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0085500 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Kuleshov Mosjoukine Postproduction, 1811 7th Street, #6, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Carlos Gutierrez, 1811 7th Street, #6, Santa Monica, CA 90401 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Carlos Gutierrez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 1/17/2005, 1/24/2005, 1/31/2005, 2/7/2005

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Document Record # 04 3368400
Current File No. 03 2485159
State of California, County of Los Angeles
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name:
Tamoles La Herradara
located at 4303 Maine St., Baldwin Park, CA 91760
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 08/29/2003
In the county of LOS ANGELES.
Isrdro Moro, 480 Ladera St., Pasadena, CA 91104, Ruben Moro, 1856 Lundy Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104
This business is conducted by: co-partners
The above declares that all information in this statement is true and correct.
That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit: 01/10/05, 01/17/05, 01/24/05, 01/31/05

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mel Gibson's bid for role as 'farmer' rejected

By The Associated Press

GREENWICH, Conn. — Mel Gibson has lost his bid to have a portion of his Connecticut estate classified as a farm.

The director of "The Passion of the Christ" asked to have 17 of his 75.7 acres in Greenwich taxed as farm land, but town officials rejected the request.

"Anyone can have a few pigs in their back yard, but a viable farm is more than having something for personal use," town Assessor John "Ted" Gwartney said. "It's about producing a viable product."

Gibson would have saved about \$10,000 per year in property taxes on his \$17.7 million estate if granted the exemption for owners of working farms. His annual property tax bill is about \$137,000, the Greenwich Time reported Thursday.

Besides a 28-room mansion, pool, tennis court and two guest houses, the property includes a barn where Gibson has kept sheep, donkeys and possibly chickens, town officials said.

Gwartney, in a letter to Gibson's representatives in November, ruled that Gibson's property was "not being used as a bona fide productive farming activity."

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Gisele Bundchen may be a leggy Brazilian supermodel, but she's no Bond girl. In fact, she's says, she's kind of dull.

Bundchen, at a news conference Friday, denied rumors she had been invited to play the love interest in the next James Bond film.

"I never received that invitation," she said. "You know what happens? I'm a very boring person. I work a lot, I go home from work, I eat dinner, sleep.

"I don't take drugs, I'm not scandalous. So people have to start inventing things about me to publish in the columns," she said.

The news conference took place after Bundchen appeared at Rio Fashion, a weeklong fashion event that showcases the autumn/winter collections of local designers.

Bundchen, who paraded for the Brazilian label Colcci, did leave open the possibility of participating in other film projects, however.

DETROIT — Entertainer Bill Cosby urged members of a primarily black audience to protect their children from rampant crime in urban neighborhoods.

Cosby spoke to about 1,800 people Thursday night in downtown Detroit in an event billed as a town meeting.

"Detroit, you're 87 percent (black)! Get up, do something," Cosby shouted. "Get up, remove this reputation. You've got a reputation, and it stinks."

Cosby told parents they should pay attention to their children's friends and habits and set rules and stick by them.

He pleaded with absent fathers to establish a pres-

ence in their children's lives and challenged the community not to tolerate drug use and crime.

The forum was designed to bring together residents and community organizations to address problems involving education, crime and drug abuse.

PITTSBURGH — The billionaire owner of a newspaper chain and his wife donated \$1 million to Catholic Relief Services for its tsunami rescue and rehabilitation effort, the charity said.

Richard M. Scaife, chairman of Westminster Holdings Inc., and his wife, Ritchie, made the donation Thursday. The couple said they were moved by scenes of devastation in southern Asia following the tsunami on Dec. 26.

"It is absolutely heartbreaking to see hundreds of thousands of people who have nothing left, and to know that more than 150,000 have been killed and tens of thousands more may still die," he said.

As chairman of Westminster Holdings Inc., Richard Scaife heads Tribune-Review Publishing Co., which publishes the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and the Tribune-Review of Greensburg, among other western Pennsylvania newspapers.

The Scaifes' donation is the largest so far to Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services since it started raising money for tsunami relief, spokeswoman Caroline Brennan said.

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